

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 066890

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:UN, PFOR, SF, WA

SUBJECT: US-UK-FRANCE DISCUSSIONS ON NAMIBIA

REF: STATE 58114

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. FRENCH EMBASSY MINISTER DE LA GORCE AND BRITISH EMBASSY COUNSELOR SAMUEL MET WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM AGAIN MARCH 24 TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF APPROACH TO SOUTH AFRICA ON NAMIBIA IN LIGHT OF REACTIONS OF FRENCH AND UK FOREIGN MINISTRIES TO DISCUSSION AT MARCH 13 TRIPARTITE MEETING (REFTEL).

2. DE LA GORCE SAID QUAI WISHES TO AVOID ANY FORMULATION ON FUTURE OF NAMIBIA THAT WOULD RAISE AFRICAN SUSPICIONS THAT THREE POWERS WOULD APPROVE DIVISION OF TERRITORY.

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THEREFORE, FRANCE FAVORS HOLDING ELECTIONS FOR NAMIBIAN RE-

PRESENTATIVE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WHICH WOULD THEN SET FORWARD PROPOSALS REGARDING THE FORM AND STRUCTURE OF FUTURE INDEPENDENCE FOR THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA. THIS WOULD AVOID CHARGES THAT SELF-DETERMINATION PROCESS RIGGED AND MAKE CERTAIN THAT NAMIBIAN PEOPLE DID NOT, AS THEY MIGHT IN A

PLEBISCITE, DIVIDE TERRITORY WITHOUT THOROUGH CONSIDERATION. DE LA GORCE STATED QUAI WOULD LIKE RESUMPTION OF SYG-SAG DIALOGUE AND BELIEVES THREE POWERS SHOULD ASK SOUTH AFRICA TO ACCEPT UN SUPERVISION OF ELECTION. FRENCH DESIRE THAT SAG BE ASKED TO ACT "AS SOON AS POSSIBLE" AND THAT TRIPARTITE APPROACH BE JOINT AFFAIR WITH WRITTEN AIDE-MEMOIRE PRESENTED.

3. SAMUEL SAID UK ALSO PREFERRED JOINT WRITTEN APPROACH AND OFFERED FOR DISCUSSION DRAFT AIDE-MEMOIRE BASED ON BRITISH REVISION OF THREE US PRINCIPLES (PARAGRAPH 2, REF-TEL). SAMUEL INDICATED THIS DRAFT HAD BEEN FAVORABLY REVIEWED IN PARIS. IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION, BRITISH DRAFT WAS FURTHER REVISED FOR REFERRAL TO LONDON AND PARIS AND FOR DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL. GROUP ALSO DRAFTED TALKING POINTS FOR USE AT TIME AIDE-MEMOIRE PRESENTED TO SAG.

4. DEPARTMENT HOPES TO REACH DECISION QUICKLY ON SUBSTANCE OF APPROACH AS WELL AS MERITS OF JOINT OR PARALLEL AND WRITTEN OR ORAL APPROACH. FRENCH RECOMMEND THAT APPROACH BE MADE BEFORE APRIL 7 OAU MEETING BUT AFTER RETURN TO PRETORIA OF THEIR AMBASSADOR. SINCE AMBASSADOR HURD SCHEDULED DEPART APRIL 5, BEST DATE WOULD APPEAR TO BE APRIL 3. KISSINGER

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